

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA
JULY 20, 2026, AT 9:00 A.M.
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 303
HELENA, MT

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Approval of the July Land Board Agenda **APPROVED: 5-0**
Approval of the June Land Board Meeting Minutes **APPROVED: 5-0**

ACTION ITEMS

- 0726-1 Timber Sales **APPROVED: 5-0****
A. Clark Hinch
Location: Sanders County
Benefits: Common Schools
B. Weeksville
Location: Sanders County
Benefits: Common Schools
C. Willow Divide
Location: Fergus County
Benefits: Common Schools
- 0726-2 Cramer Creek Land Exchange: Preliminary Approval **APPROVED: 5-0****
Location: Missoula County
Benefits: Common Schools and Capitol Buildings
- 0726-3 Informational Item: Land Banking Program Briefing**
Location: NA
Benefits: NA
- 0726-4 Land Banking Sale: Preliminary Approval **APPROVED: 5-0****
Location: Cascade County
Benefits: Common Schools
- 0726-5 Easements **APPROVED: 5-0****
Location: Blaine, Chouteau, Dawson, Pondera, and Valley Counties
Benefits: Common Schools and Public Land Trust
- 0726-6 Land Board Policy – Production Livestock Policy **As amended APPROVED: 5-0****
Location: All
Benefits: All
- 0726-7 Lease No. 5183**
Location: Toole County
Benefits: Common Schools
- 0726-8 Legislative Proposals **APPROVED: 5-0****
Location: All
Benefits: All
- 0726-9 Informational Item: Quarterly Litigation Update**
Location: N/A
Benefits: N/A

Public Comment:

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
JULY 20, 2026 AT 9:00 A.M.
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 303
HELENA, MT

Members Present

Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor
Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Austin Knudsen, Attorney General
James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State
Brenda Johnson, Land Board Secretary
Sonia Gavin, Land Board Secretary

Members Absent

None

Testifying Staff

Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director
Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
Ryan Weiss, DNRC Trust Lands Deputy Administrator
Parker Osterloh, DNRC Land Sections Supervisor
Kelly Motichka, DNRC Agricultural and Grazing Bureau Chief
Deidra Klobberdanz, DNRC Real Estate Management Bureau Chief
Trevor Taylor, DNRC Minerals Management Bureau Chief
Brian Bramblette DNRC Chief Legal Counsel

Attachments

Related Materials, Attachment 1 – Sign-in-Sheet
Related Materials, Attachment 2 – Randal Rucker written testimony

Call to Order

00:00:00 Lieutenant Governor Juras called the meeting to order.

Adopt Proposed Agenda

00:00:58 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General, moved to approve the July agenda. The motion was seconded by Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State, and carried unanimously.

Adopt Prior Months Meeting Minutes

00:01:15 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, moved to approve the June, minutes. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and carried unanimously.

Business Considered

0726-1 Timber Sales A, B & C

00:02:31 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

00:04:33 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General, moved to approve item 0726-1. The motion was

seconded by Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State and carried unanimously.

0726-2 Cramer Creek Land Exchange: Preliminary Approval

00:00:00 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment:

00:08:34 Dwight Maclay Schulte, Public Citizen

00:12:12 Mark Aagenes, Montana Chapter of the Nature Conservancy

00:14:47 Denny Iverson, Public Citizen

00:16:56 Todd Johnson, Public Citizen

00:19:26 Ryan Chapin, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

00:20:30 Doug Hall, Public Citizen

00:22:21 Jeff Schulz, Bonita-Clinton Potomac Grazing Association

00:24:04 Ben Lamb, Montana Conservation Society

00:25:50 Phil Ramsey, MPG Ranch

00:26:51 David Maclay-Schulte, Public Citizen

00:32:33 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State moved to approve item 0726-2. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Board Discussion/Comments:

00:32:48 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

00:36:06 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

00:37:38 Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction

00:38:13 The motion to approve item 0726-2 carried unanimously.

0726-3 Informational Item: Land Banking Program Briefing

00:38:21 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Presentation:

00:38:52 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor. Presentation delayed due to technical difficulties.

00:43:21 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, moved to defer item 0726-3 to the August meeting due to technical difficulties and the motion was seconded by Austin Knudsen, Attorney General.

Public Comment:

00:44:40 Kevin Farron, Montana Wildlife Federation

Presentation:

00:47:05 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor

Public Comment:

00:56:04 Kevin Farron, Montana Wildlife Federation

Board Discussion/Comments:

00:58:11 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

00:58:29 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director

00:58:39 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

00:59:09 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor

00:59:12 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 00:59:29 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
 00:59:31 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 00:59:44 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
 00:59:46 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 01:00:34 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
 01:00:36 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 01:00:43 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
 01:00:46 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 01:00:58 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
 01:01:04 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 01:01:25 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
 01:01:28 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 01:01:51 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
 01:01:53 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 01:01:55 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
 01:02:26 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 01:02:39 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
 01:02:59 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 01:03:18 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
 01:03:23 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 01:03:24 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
 01:03:37 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 01:03:48 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
 01:03:52 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 01:04:07 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
 01:04:28 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 01:04:42 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
 01:04:44 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 01:04:54 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
 01:05:18 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 01:05:40 Seth Goodwin, DNRC Land Section Supervisor
 01:05:44 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director
 01:05:53 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 01:06:31 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director
 01:06:48 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance
 01:08:08 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State
 01:08:25 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director
 01:08:35 Ryan Weiss, DNRC Trust Lands Deputy Administrator

0726-4 Land Banking Sale: Preliminary Approval

01:08:08 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

01:10:26 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State, moved to approve item 0726-4. The motion was seconded by James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, and carried unanimously.

0726-5 Easements

01:10:46 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment: N/A

01:11:26 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General, moved to approve item 0726-5. The motion was seconded by Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and carried unanimously.

0726-6 Land Board Policy – Production Livestock Policy

01:11:47 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

Public Comment:

01:13:18 Raylee Honeycutt, Executive Vice President of the MT Stockgrowers Association

01:14:25 Emma Quist, Montana Stockgrowers Policy Intern

01:15:38 Becky Williams, American Prairie Foundation

01:20:58 Tom Franz, Representative HD 99

01:29:04 Michael King, Fort Belknap Tribal Council

01:34:09 Tylee Wellman, World Wildlife Fund Native Nations Team and Blackfeet Tribal Member

01:36:04 Kevin Farron, Montana Wildlife Federation

01:37:21 Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction moved to approve item 0726-6. The motion was seconded by Austin Knudsen, Attorney General.

Board Discussion/Comments:

01:37:36 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:38:07 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director

01:38:21 Parker Osterloh, DNRC Land Sections Supervisor DNRC Land Sections Supervisor

01:38:44 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:39:00 Parker Osterloh, DNRC Land Sections Supervisor DNRC Land Sections Supervisor

01:39:03 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:39:56 Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction

01:40:17 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director

01:40:25 Parker Osterloh, DNRC Land Sections Supervisor DNRC Land Sections Supervisor

01:41:06 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:41:43 Parker Osterloh, DNRC Land Sections Supervisor DNRC Land Sections Supervisor

01:42:12 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:42:15 Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction

01:42:46 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

01:44:00 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

01:44:05 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

01:44:20 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, moved to amend to defer this matter to a future meeting. The motion was seconded by Austin Knudsen, Attorney General.

01:45:28 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:45:30 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

01:45:36 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

01:45:47 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:46:06 The motion to amend item 0726-6 carried unanimously.

01:46:21 The motion item 0726-6 as amended carried unanimously.

0726-7 Lease No. 5183

01:46:58 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

01:48:00 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

Public Comment:

01:48:34 Lacey Nichol, Land Owner

Board Discussion/Comments:

01:51:07 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

01:51:23 Lacey Nichol, Land Owner

01:51:24 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

01:51:25 Lacey Nichol, Land Owner

01:51:26 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

01:51:31 Lacey Nichol, Land Owner

01:52:22 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

Board Discussion/Comments

01:53:03 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:53:20 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director

01:53:41 Kelly Motichka, DNRC Agricultural and Grazing Bureau Chief

01:54:46 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:55:26 Kelly Motichka, DNRC Agricultural and Grazing Bureau Chief

01:55:31 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:55:45 Kelly Motichka, DNRC Agricultural and Grazing Bureau Chief

01:55:48 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

01:55:53 Kelly Motichka, DNRC Agricultural and Grazing Bureau Chief

01:56:42 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

01:56:57 Kelly Motichka, DNRC Agricultural and Grazing Bureau Chief

01:57:30 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director

01:57:40 Kelly Motichka, DNRC Agricultural and Grazing Bureau Chief

01:57:57 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

0726-8 Legislative Proposals

01:58:34 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

01:59:48 Deidra Klobardanz, DNRC Real Estate Management Bureau Chief

02:01:58 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director

02:02:07 Trevor Taylor, DNRC Minerals Management Bureau Chief

02:03:45 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director

Public Comment:

02:04:10 Kevin Farron, Montana Wildlife Federation

02:06:45 Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction moved to approve item 0726-8. The motion was seconded by Austin Knudsen, Attorney General.

Board Discussion/Comments:

02:06:57 Austin Knudsen, Attorney General

02:07:50 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director

02:08:00 Travis Taylor, DNRC Minerals Management Bureau Chief

02:08:26 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director

02:08:30 Deidra Klobardanz, DNRC Real Estate Management Bureau Chief

02:08:57 Christi Jacobsen, Secretary of State

02:09:11 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director

02:09:15 Travis Taylor, DNRC Minerals Management Bureau Chief

02:09:40 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

02:10:45 Susie Hedalen, Superintendent of Public Instruction

02:10:58 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

02:11:23 The motion to approve item 0726-8 carried unanimously.

0726-9 Informational Item: Quarterly Litigation Update

02:11:45 Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director, gave an overview of the item.

02:12:05 Brian Bramblette, DNRC Chief Legal Counsel

Board Discussion/Comments:

02:13:30 James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

General Public Comment: N/A

Adjournment

02:14:07 Adjournment

PRESIDENT

ATTEST

/s/ _____ Date

Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor

/s/ _____ Date

Amanda Kaster, DNRC Director

Please note: The Land Board has adopted the audio recording of its meetings as the official record, as allowed by [2-3-212, MCA](#). These minutes provide an abbreviated summary of the Land Board discussion, public testimony, action taken, and other activities. The time designations listed are approximate and may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio recording of this meeting. You may access the minutes and the audio recording on our website: <https://dnrc.mt.gov/TrustLand/About/LandBoardMeetingArchive>.